

JAMES C. JENSEN



James Christian Jensen, son of Soren Peter Jensen and Kirsten Marie Christensen, was born at Glimsholt, Ugilt Parish, Hjorring Amt. Denmark, on September 9, 1863. He began his schooling in Linderum School, near his birth place, in 1871. On April 14, 1877, as the family had joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, James was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. Three months later his family emigrated to Utah, reaching Salt Lake City on July 14, 1877. His father had, prior to that time, bought a house in Levan, Juab County, and the family settled there and attended school the following year. James also worked at farming and at the store in

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Levan. He later went to Juab Station, where he had charge of a branch store. In 1881-82 he attended Brigham Young Academy at Provo, where he studied grammar, elocution, bookkeeping, geometry, shorthand, and civil government. He obtained a large certificate in bookkeeping under the signature of Karl G. Maeser, attesting that his efficiency in that field was 100 per cent. This certificate is still in the possession of the family.

When he left school he went to Milford, where he was engaged by B. F. Grant in various clerical positions. On October 16, 1884, he married Miss Joannah E. Jennings of Levan at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. To this union was born seven sons and two daughters, seven of whom lived to maturity. They are: Jay C., Erma, Glen, Ralph, Perris, Leo, and Eva. The last three were born in Heber City, Utah.

In 1885, Mr. Jensen became head bookkeeper for Co-op. Wagon & Machine Company in Salt Lake City, which position he held until 1888, when he resigned to enter into partnership with the Hon. Charles C. Richards, Daniel and John Hamer of Ogden in the abstract business. He assisted in compiling a set of records of Weber County and later, as a member of the same company, he had charge of compilation of the set of abstract records of Salt Lake County. The company was later incorporated as the Security Abstract Company. He followed the abstract business until 1896, when he was elected county recorder of Salt Lake County. In 1898, he was re-elected, leading his ticket by several hundred votes. He is credited with having introduced, while recorder of Salt Lake County, the system of recording which was still in use more than fifty years later. He refused to have his name entered for a third term and taught penmanship and other branches of business with the LDS Business College.

In 1901 he was released to become counselor in the Wasatch Stake Presidency. He was sustained to this position May 12, 1901, after which he moved his family to Wasatch County and settled in Heber City. William H. Smart was president of the new organization in the stake.

In Heber City, Mr. Jensen organized and opened the first Bank of Heber City, in April, 1902, with capital stock of \$25,000,

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fully paid up from the community. The bank prospered and later increased the stock to \$50,000, then to \$100,000 at which time it made 11 per cent interest in one year. For some years, Mr. Jensen was county recorder and clerk of Wasatch County, during which time he reindexed and rearranged the probate records and installed new records in loose-leaf form in contemplation of the need for division of the county at a later date. In 1914 the county was divided, the eastern part becoming Duchesne County, where Mr. Jensen aided in the settlement of the new county as well as copying all the records needed by the same. Wasatch Development Company was organized and equipped with maps for locating the more valuable lands. During the panic of 1907-08 things became very difficult for the sheepmen especially, but through the work of the president and cashier of the bank its solvency was maintained, and it continued to be a safe concern.

In 1922 the Church gave Mr. Jensen a release from his ecclesiastical duties in Wasatch Stake, and he returned with his family to Salt Lake City, where he again conducted an abstract business. His wife passed away December 21, 1934, and Mr. Jensen spent much of his remaining years at the home of his daughter in Richmond, Utah, until his death from a heart ailment on December 23, 1941. His funeral was held in Salt Lake City, in the Seventeenth Ward, of which he had been a member in his later years.

Among other things mentioned at the funeral were the various positions he held while living in that city. He was connected with Sunday School in every ward in which he lived, acted as ward teacher in the Thirteenth and Nineteenth Wards, and was an officer in several MIA organizations, being called to be president of the same in the Thirteenth Ward, but never acted because of removal from the ward. When Granite Stake was organized he was made Stake Sunday School Secretary. President George Albert Smith, a close friend and business associate, commended his excellence in every position which he held, in business or in the Church, when he spoke at his funeral.

DR. ROSS E. JENSEN

Dr. Ross E. Jensen was born at Brigham City, Utah, on August 22, 1927, to Milton E. Jensen and Ethel Reese Jensen. Educated at Box Elder High School and the University of Utah, he served in the U. S. Army during 1945-46, in Italy. He married Norma Lemon, and started practice in Heber in 1958.

JOANNAH ELIZA JENNINGS
JENSEN

Joannah Eliza Jennings, daughter of Mansfield and Fanny Jane Perris Jennings, was born September 2, 1866, at Springville, Utah. When she was three years old the family moved to Levan to take part in the settlement of that town. Joey, as she was known among her friends, grew up in Levan, attended school there, and took a prominent part in Church organizations, especially the YWMA and Sunday School, where she was secretary, and married James Christian Jensen on October 16, 1884. They lived first at Milford. The Jensens moved to Salt Lake City, where they lived until moving to Salt Lake City, where they resided until moved to Heber City in August, 1901. On June 11, 1903, she was set apart as president of the Relief Society of Heber Third Ward, a position she filled ably until she was made president of the Stake Relief Society of Wasatch Stake on June 16, 1910. Because of ill health, she was released November 19, 1916. She was noted for her ability as an organizer, for her manifold charities, and she was greatly loved by all who knew her. Wherever there was sick-

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ness or want she was to be found. Under her direction the annex to the Heber amusement hall was stocked with all equipment needed to prepare and serve meals for 500 persons. No assignment seemed too difficult for her to accomplish.

Having lost her first two children at birth, she was told she would never again bear a living child. A visitor gave her a blessing and promised her a family. The promise was fulfilled, she having seven children who reached maturity. At one time she was pronounced dead, but revived thirty minutes later. She described her experiences in the spirit world for that length of time, where she was given her choice of remaining there or returning to earth. After being permitted first to view her children kneeling around her bed and praying, she asked to return to her body, and she lived to have two additional children, who reached maturity before she passed away in Salt Lake City on December 21, 1934.

She is remembered as a fluent speaker and a wonderful hostess. Her home was always open to everyone, and she entertained hundreds of visitors who will always revere her memory.